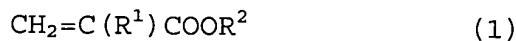


polymer side chain (P) and a salt-forming group (Q), wherein the acrylic polymer side chain (P) is a (co)polymer consisting essentially of:

at least one monomer represented by the following formula (1),



wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and R^2 is an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and optionally

at least one comonomer selected from styrene, acrylonitrile and vinyl acetate, and wherein the content of the monomer represented by the formula (1) in the (co)polymer is not less than 60 % by weight.

Claim 11. (**Amended**) The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein said acrylic polymer side chain (P) has a number average molecular weight of 300 to 20,000.

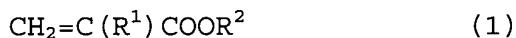
Claim 14. (**Amended**) The water-based ink according to claim 4, wherein said nonionic polymer side chain (R) has a number average molecular weight of 300 to 10,000.

Please add the following claims:

Claim 21. (New) The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein said acrylic polymer side chain (P) is a polymer made from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, i-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, octyl methacrylate, lauryl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, i-butyl acrylate, and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.

Claim 22. (New) A water-based ink comprising:

- (A) a coloring material; and
- (B) an aqueous dispersion of polymer particles comprising a water-insoluble graft copolymer having an acrylic polymer side chain (P) and a salt-forming group (Q), wherein the acrylic polymer side chain (P) is a polymer made of at least one monomer represented by the formula (1):



wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; and R² is an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

wherein said at least one monomer is not an aromatic monomer,
and

wherein the content of the monomer represented by the
formula (1) in the (co)polymer is not less than 60 % by weight.

Claim 23. (**New**) The water-based ink according to claim 1,
wherein the glass transition temperature of the main chain of said
graft copolymer is from 30°C to 120°C.